



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

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Mayor Tom Barrett today released the following statement after the Common Council's actions on his 2009 Budget vetoes:

"I extend my thanks to the Common Council for sustaining the majority of my vetoes and congratulate the members on their efforts to reduce the City's operating expenses while maintaining my budget priorities, including the maintenance of Police strength, increased commitments to our infrastructure, and innovative approaches to a strong level of Neighborhood Library services.

I also congratulate Fire Fighter Local 215 for convincing a clear majority of the Common Council to slow the implementation of the Council's own 2005 fire fighter staffing study. Despite the fact that no fire fighter has been laid-off and fire department response times have not been compromised, the issue of financing traditional staffing levels remains and will have to be addressed as we deal with increasingly tight finances.

The fiscal forecast for 2009 is gloomy. Many of the issues we debated over the last few months will, more than likely, be revisited prior to the introduction of the City's 2010 budget. I look forward to working with the Council and all our represented employee unions as we continue to manage essential City services through these difficult economic times."